

Ballard Civic Center Skate Park Meeting #3

- Would have been better to have whole group have a dialogue to understand who we got to this place in design process and why - Q&A
- How much will it cost to maintain trees with gypsy moth?
- Problem of 6-7 story building right next to park - feel like park in a canyon
- If we enhance private value we should get something back from that for the public benefit.
- How is park linked to Community Center?
- Like asymmetrical design
- Like kids climbing areas
- Only skate plaza will not satisfy skaters/either all or nothing
- Simple forms/good circulation
- More passive, less activity/open green space/flowers & benches
- More Ballard/less Bellevue - more gritty and simple - normal "park" - Joe's Coffee House, not Starbucks
- See a dead zone in amphitheatre. "This is a stage - do not cross"?
- Color of sidewalk leading right through the amphitheatre. Give people permission to be there.
- Don't let the rows of trees wall people off. Scatter the trees.
- Play area for kids. Are they going to be interesting?
- Concerned about noise the raindrops are going to make too much?
- Can we make the raindrops interactive for sunny days?
- Are the tables and benches available?
- Would like as many benches with wood (not concrete) seats as possible for winter comfort.
- More benches
- What are swales and rain drums?
- Children's play area sculpting - needs to have safety standards

- Ballard is zoned for high density parking will be an issue in the future - QFC will be adding more parking
- Parking will continue to get worse
- Rain features will emphasize "rainyness" too much
- Skateboards will skate amphitheatre and entire park - not small play area because it's too small to really skate
- More cost effective to keep existing bowl
- No bowl - skates will use whole park because small plaza is inadequate
- All the way from Bellingham - families
27yrs served by skate parks
Seattle very underserved by skate parks
- Skateboarding a non-competitive sport- healthy and communal
- Skate park brings business to Ballard
- Ballard bowl unique over entire NW
Older skaters mentor younger skaters
Replacing park will not be able to replicate this feeling
History and community unique atmosphere
- Replacement needs to be built by grindline
- A waste to demolish the existing structure and build something new
- A goal to have park heavily used and low maintenance - bowl is both
- Tear something down when city is budgeted cutting is a waste
- Street skate area used by different demographics than the bowl – street skaters will maintain it differently than they do the bowl
- Street skating park has different users and reduced level of skater care taking
- Have Ballard zoned as urban village so it needs a skate park designed for the urbanite
- If we don't include skate bowl gives negative message to kids who have seen the level of community support - then given "No" like the stadium built over the voters "No".
- Neighbors are supportive of having skateboarding in the park

- Noise is a major issue among neighbors
- Waste of money to demolish existing resource and spend more money to build another one
- Skateboarding is for all ages - all types
solo sport - only 3% of current park fenced for safety
- Skater are now jumping the fence - noise and access at all hours
- Park for all is not skate park
- Query - Is plaza safer option than bowl - who has data?
contained activity vs. greater potential with mix of
pedestrians and skaters
- Prefer bowl - community asset (non-skater)
- Still don't understand why Bowl can't stay
- Skate park needs to have expert design
- Input ignored from majority - why is bowl in wrong area
-
- Acoustic issues for theater/theater "rake" sun angle
- Nice compromises in design
- Kids like rock play structures
- Not a good co promise - either give all to skaters or not at all
- Don't want noisy park

Bowl reflects Ballard culture and asset to the community

Spill over effect of park - skate - need enough room
Senior housing

How are police involved?

Don't like skate plaza but like design

Older bowl users police more rambunctious younger skaters

Abutting multiuse park and dwelling "that's my back yard"

Where are the bathrooms?

Where is trash?

Keep the bowl in Ballard - kids walk there - discrete use good

Nice transition with QFC

Good range passive - active

Enough area for festivities - amphitheater

Likes artistic play elements

Like flexibility

maintain sight lines thru vegetation

Will provide residents, seniors, small children, young adults - suitable for many ages.

Skate park plaza good

suitable for local young residents

can learn skating here

More protective area - covering for seating

Starbucks/espresso/wine bar

Skate plaza not same as bowl - can't cut baby in two and keep people happy

Intergenerational opp. - wants skate park

Bowl is the best element - heart of the element set off from other uses

Listen to the constituency - more families with kids who skate

Skating as separate activity

Sustainability should be considered in design of the park.

Concern about storm water issues opportunities for use on site

Skaters - keep advanced skaters, mix level skaters, adult skaters come for the bowl

Skate area larger - does not add to parking problem because it is non driving user base

Water feature is part of vision for the park

Skate park - waste of resources to tear down bowl. Plaza will not appeal to adult skaters

Contained bowl has safety built in

Due to containment - plaza is less safe because of pedestrian interaction

Keep the bowl - it costs nothing to keep and is more cost effective park
little or no maintenance
self policed and maintained - cleaned

Street plaza too small

Non skate areas will be skated

My Concern: ok for plaza. Background to theatre. How does amphitheatre and skateboard bowl co-exist? Good to have seats raised. Don't want audience or performers looking into sun - shows at 6:00, 7:00 pm and 2:00pm.

Bowl artistic. Don't move bowl.

I cannot see bowl abutting townhouses. We have not control over QFC development.

Want this to be a daily place to visit. Not just focus on festivals. Want people to move

Surprised at the number of trees. 20 years - park will be shaded

Don't want QFC building to dictate what is happening in the park. Not the front yard for them.

QFC is pushing skaters out.

Be opportunistic - keep the skate bowl. Amphitheatre and bowl too close. Got a good thing going.

Not QFC driven.

Student - For the bowl. Representing the younger generation. Skaters should re-consider. Very sustainable small area accommodates a lot of people. Represents the culture of the area.

Neighborhood plan. Fun, activity, celebrating sunny days. Water playground.

Lots of people living in apartments. Community undertaking a campaign to endow maintenance. Don't let the doors close to water feature.

Are they going to tear down the bowl? I hope. Good.

Is there concern the amphitheatre will be used by skateboarders?

Doesn't make sense to destroy something community built, ie. the skate park. Is this the final design?

BALLARD CIVIC CENTER PARK

Comment sheets on Park Design returned at meeting or during week following

No skate park!

We do not want the skate park here, but would like it in a better location in Ballard.

I love that place (skateboard park). Me and my friends fought for it to be built in our neighborhood. Don't take it away. Woodland Park is too far away.

Good use of relatively small space. Adaptable to many uses. Unified approach rather than cut up appropriate. Beginning skate area appropriate (rather than bowl). Lots of trees! "Stage" area must not be suitable for skateboards.

"Preferred alternative" is nice enough except it does not include the skater's bowl (nor toilets, as far as I see). Destroying existing bowl with the pledge to build another at some future time is colossal waste of my \$ when the existing one works just fine. I'm within a block of the bowl and, although there is occasional clatter from it, those who use it do a great job of sharing it and "policing" themselves. I'm 57 and I dispute claims of my cranky neighbors.

Keep the skateboard park. (I'm an old guy and I like the skaters.)

Keep the bowl and skatepark. I always watch the kids (and grownups) skate and bike and think it's great to have it in the middle of town. (I am 65 years old)

As a 32 year old, professional who is a Ballard resident I must strongly lodge my opinion in opposition to the Parks department decision to not include a bowl in the proposed Ballard Park. The park has provided an invaluable opportunity to allow adults and kids to intermingle, recreate and enjoy Ballard during (well almost all) seasons! Please, please reconsider your decision. I have looked forward to skating with my children and future generations in my own neighborhood and am very disappointed that you have taken away this opportunity. I will pledge to help oppose any design that does not support a local bowl in the design. Please reconsider

Thank you for your careful consideration and planning of the new park. I am torn over the skate park issue and as an employee of a Market Street Business, deeply resent the comments of the Ballard Chamber of Commerce. They may represent "commerce" but they do not represent the families, merchants and customers of the Parks immediate neighborhood. However, it seems clear new locations for skate parks are less, and we applaud the SPD's efforts.

Where's The Bowl?

Keep the bowl, save the skatepark.

I like the overall design, especially the children's play area. Real shortage of these in Ballard. Also like the amphitheater and open areas. The children's shape of the park is preferable to blockier feel of other models.

I found it to be very disappointing how so many people (hundreds) showed up every meeting to "Save the Ballard Bowl" (not the whole park or street skating area. However despite our numbers in public outcry, we were given an unwated alternative. No one was fighting for a skate plaza without the Bowl. Why were we ignored. Whoever thought that the skate plaza was of any interest to the community. Namely the tax paying adults who use the bowl.

I find it astonishing that despite a large outpouring of support for keeping the existing bowl, the park planners don't want to do this. It's not just skaters who want to keep the bowl. I don't skate but it is obvious how well loved and well utilized it is. Many people ranging from little kids to seniors, and in between, enjoy watching the skateboarders, it just boggles my mind why anyone would want to take something away which is such a huge asset to Seattle and particularly Ballard. Many local businesses benefit from people who travel here to skate the bowl. Also very sad to see the message being sent to your kids who are voicing their opinion – "your voice doesn't matter, we aren't listening". It is not too late to do the right thing and Save the Bowl! P.S. Looking at the current plan, would seem to make sense to keep the bowl – it would fit in, be next to "Street" Skate element- why not keep it there?!?

I think it's nice. Especially the trees cause Ballard needs more of those. I'm surprised by the intense emotions at this meeting. What happened?

The reason given for including a street skating area in the park includes the statement that skateboarders have been good stewards of the existing park. However, I'd recommend looking at the current site. Note that the bowl has been well treated, while the street area is falling apart, full of trash. The good stewards are the ones who come to skate the bowl and who would be going away along with the bowl.

It is shameful that a city-built park for public enjoyment has no toilet facilities! If you are afraid of homeless using a bathroom well, that should tell us something about ourselves. It would be wasteful to demolish a perfectly good skate park located in a perfectly situated location. Too bad the city can't stand up to a few obnoxious private economic interests and those interests are just flat out wrong that a skate park is a community problem. The current design has too much paving and lawn. There should be more wildlife friendly native plantings and habitat. We already have too much pavement and lawn in Ballard.

Diversity of Ages- how does this park (do rock sculptures encourage play?) accommodate the activities of young children ages 2-8? And Gathering Place for the Community? How can the amphitheater and the skate park co-exist. Wouldn't a performance be competing with the noise of the skaters? Please take note that the steeper the rake for the audience the better the acoustics traveling sound for musicians and actors. Please take note of setting sun in eyes of audience or in eyes of performers. Avoid direct focus. The senior citizens in the neighborhood are really "bullied" by the skaters. Have the seniors lost their neighborhood to folks from other districts.

I'm a 49 year old resident of Ballard. I have 3 sons and we all use the skate park and bowl. It would be a shame to remove this park from the future plans, especially the bowl. This bowl is unique – the older men have developed a place here where young and old come together unlike any other activity I know of. They mentor and encourage the youth. They treat my kids extremely well and we all thoroughly enjoy come here.

We think the design is bland – it doesn't offer a distinguishing feature that sets it apart. The water drum idea is a nice gesture but we come away from the meeting thinking that many of the interesting ideas from the 2nd meeting have been watered down. We simply guess it is due to budget and we lament that we do like the amphitheater and stone work ideas for it. We lament the community process at the same time we realize it is the core of how Seattle projects work. We suspect you will need at least or more interaction of the plan- and to reach out to the throng in the center of the room tonight.

We want the bowl

Ballard absolutely needs a park in the center of the community. Ballard is fast becoming the largest apartment condo population in the city. This park should be just that—a park where people can walk, sit and read, relax and meet with fellow residents. Noisy skateboarders are not conducive to the quite peaceful place we look to as citizens. The park should compliment our beautiful new library with a real park, not something for skateboarders because the majority of adults in Ballard will not use the park. Please, please develop a park for the majority of citizens – not just a vocal minority, who are quite young and do not pay taxes. Skateboarding is a fad and will not be around 100 years from now. The park will be. Your plan need more benches for sitting and must be designed for the majority of our apartment condo owners and homeowners.

Needs a bowl.

Keep the bowl. Kids will outgrow a street course. They will want to ride big transition parks.

Skaters will maintain the bowl as they do now. Grind line should build any new skate park but Ballard Bowl needs to stay.

Love the rain drops, love grassy area, want a bowl so that more advanced skaters will come, want all to get together.

Please don't destroy the best thing in Ballard the skate park! I have seen first hand the positive impact it has had on our youth and our community in general. These kids have worked hard to prove that they're not trouble makers which they shouldn't have to prove in the first place. They keep the area clean and I have never seen anything but fun happening there. This park brings vitality and business to our neighborhood. Save the Bowl!

We want a park, not a playground for skateboarders. There must be another place in all of Seattle where the skateboarders can do their thing and make all the noise that goes with it. I have been living in Ballard for 43 years. Where is the area, going to be, where seniors can sit and relax without all the noise. I have been watching this activity since it was first built so I know what's going on.

Too noisy.

No bathrooms? That's ridiculous?

What about tax payer's funding a park for a private for profit housing developer? Sounds like Ballard what about a skateboard impact fee?

Bathrooms, public please!

We do not want a skatepark here! They deserve a place but not here. We want a neighborhood park that is safe for seniors, children and pets. We voted for the Parks Levy, don't turn our park over to a special noisy interest group.

This should not be the "front yard" for the QFC. No commerce accent!

There needs to be a bathroom.

Needs a bathroom!

To have a place where kids and teens (mostly boys) can all hang together in one place, behind a fence in plain sight, out of trouble is very important for the community and is a huge crime deterrent.

It also provides a place without parents where they can be together. It is also an excellent physical activity. Without one in the area parents would have to drive their kids (yuk!)

Save the bowl and skatepark.

There is plenty of room to keep the skate bowl. We need the activity and the diversity it brings.

Need a bathroom too.

Save the bowl please!

I thought that the plan had already been picked and this was a done deal to announce the plan. ? the purpose for breakout meetings.

I worked Parks Recreation in Battery Park City in lower Manhattan for more than 5 years. I am hugely impressed with the level of organization and commitment the skaters have shown. They are the heart and soul of this park – note: I am a 40 year old woman without kids who would love a place to roller blade (flatland, slalom). The skate demographic will only increase over the next 10 to 20 years. You marginalize the constituency at your risk. I can't tell you how many person hrs. and 100's of thousands of \$BPC Parks spent trying to foster the community you have in the skaters. P.S. what are the rodent control measures the QFC/townhouses will be implementing?

Hello – Ballard is now an urban zone, so the park will serve Future users as well as myself, now. Transportation in the future will not involve cars, and local parks will become increasingly important. Skating, bicycles, walking will be predominant, accessing the park and using it. It is too small for bicycle exercise, or rollerblades. Skating is desirable. Keep the bowl, it's built. 1. I want the large lawns for hanging out on, with coffee. Looks good. 2. I want to sit in the sun in the summer, but have a covered area like Bergstrom plaza for political rallies. 3. QFC/Security properties are getting too good of a deal. I don't want to see them, a low solid concrete fence is required. 4. mixing generations is wonderful. Skate Bowl and reading benches and grass is great. 5. Parking will be in the library lot you know. So will shoppers park there too. 6. The process is flawed, skaters did not get acknowledged at the last meeting. They were heard this meeting, which was great. 7. Where are the restrooms?

All I want is a place to walk my dog, and maybe talk and communicate with neighbors. I'm apposed to a bowl, with young wild kids, etc. I am a young adult, in a wheelchair.

I love the bowl!

The bowl is an already paid for volunteer maintained, intergenerational service to the community. My husband spends 10 hrs. a week at the bowl getting his exercise and mentoring the youth there. The bowl is a positive place! The Civic Center design that was shown tonight was not what was in plans 1,2,or 3 – this is a new park, created by private interests--- not what the community here wants. Listen to the community and open the design back up to incorporate what the users desire.

Keep the bowl – integrate the bowl into the design.

Save the Bowl! Current design does not include a multi-generational use skate bowl. The design does not include future plans for the Ballard Neighborhood to have a real skateboard park. This design caters mainly to the developers building the QFC and housing facility, creating public space solely for their residents benefit.

I am a Ballard home owner and would be happy to listen to skaters riding a bowl outside my window. It is obvious city gov. is catering to developers. Thank You.

Skatepark is tiny. Why not use the existing skate park. Consider the amount of skateboarders, consider the amount of skateboard facilities where do the kids go? Hundreds of kids visit the skate park daily. Without a place to skate these kids will be displaced Ballard is the City's only city run skateboard park. Integrate the existing skateboard bowl. Existing bowl is very small when entire space is considered. Seems like an unlikely place for a city park; between a fabric store, a QFC and a Bartell drugs?

Save the Ballard bowl. Don't let condo developers run our civic decisions!

I do not believe that the small skateboard plaza will keep either skateboarders or the general public happy. This is a compromise bound to fail. Dump the skateboard plaza or give them the whole area. 2. Provide some shelter in the seating areas and food kiosks. Think European! 3. You still need a calming, low maintenance water fountain. I can be done in spite of your cries of "maintenance anguish". The "water drums" don't work during the summer. 4. You are getting closer, but still no cigar. 5. Offer to build fountain still exists.

You are discarding an existing skate facility that is self contained and already paid for. Instead you are replacing it with a skate facility that will clash with the other users of the park. Also the city seems to support the needs of big business's in the area that will benefit financially from removing the bowl and not support the constituents or the community.

Water feature in a land locked park? Why? We've got water all around 24th St Pier, Golden Gardens, Carkeek, Lake Washington, Lake Union, Puget Sound. Why cram more water in 1.3 acres?

Stone seems very hard for a wood-paved area. Wood is hard to maintain, but since it's a major part of the NW, I think a balance of stone/wood would be nice. Amphitheater looks like a dead zone in the middle, often unused. Make it usable everyday, not just a few days. Seems like a lot of trees in the NE corner. Why at the sunniest part.

Where is Plan #3?

The Ballard Civic Center and library reflect planning for a community supportive of open space and cultural meaning. The space with natural plantings and a restive fountain with focus on alternatives that are healthy and restore community work and sharing together. Ballard's expenditure for housing, schooling, library resources speak to our outreach for culture such as music, theater, dance and social sharing. Our need for a park, fundamentally documented by our master Site Growth Management Plan aspires to replace a parking lot with natural vegetation. Skateboarding is not in Ballard's permanent plan. The interim land use tests the more focused Ballard Plan only in so far as a self-centered sport needs its own form of Pacific Raceway, or perhaps sports stadium (replacing Seahawks and Mariners), some facility designed for no one else but "board persons". Their noise and acrobats become repetitive, boring, noisy and self-serving. Let their funding create an entertainment site where they gaze upon one another perhaps motions set to rap music.

I would like to know what makes "street skate" safer than a bowl – Pedestrian/skater mix looks less safe to me. Destruction of the bowl is financially, socially, irresponsible. Would like to see safety analysis of play area equipment? Sculptures can be hazardous. The bowl is a better safety option

than the skate plaza because it is more self contained as is. Potential for pedestrian interaction with proposed skate plaza is for greater. With high density traffic housing increase, park is likely to have high density traffic. Keep the bowl, its communal, its beautiful, it's a healthy sport for locals in an urban area. I am not a skater but go watch and love what I see in healthy interactions of multi generation. (I am over 35) I currently live near by and stop by. As a park would go on Saturday, Sunday and use as a destination for walks 2 or 3x a week.

Fixes to problems: take money from bull dozing the bowl and put it into sound proofing town houses. Nothing is boring to kids. Make it as generic as you want. Splitting the skate community, might not work.

What part of "temporary" don't those guys get? New design, yes!!

While I fully encourage the enthusiasm I see beyond Ballard's Civic Center Park design. I have several concerns with the "preferred alternative" design submitted for review at the March 9th public meeting. 1. Firstly, I have concerns involving parking while using the park, especially for "festivals" and "performances" in the proposed civic amphitheater. 2. Secondly, waive the "rain drum" sculpture idea, its an innovative one. I wonder how many park users one would find at the park in a downpour. 3. Thirdly, I have a question as to why the planners (Cathy Tuttle, Swift & Co. etc..) are so intent on demolishing the existing recreational skateboard structure. "The Ballard Bowl" in the face of such over whelming public outcry to the contrary? This seemingly blatant disregard of public opinion on the issue of a public facility begs the question as to the Parks Departments motivations. I was especially interested to learn of security properties plan for the adjacent QFC highrise/mixed use property, and their gaping lack of presence at the March 9th Public Meeting. I'd hate to think that a developer's whisper is louder than the public's outcry.

The nature of children is to see things as things affect them. With maturity (hopefully) you learn to see things as they affect all people. The park is for all the people, not just for skate boarders. Us joggers like parks to. Little kids like parks to. In between ages like parks. I don't know the population of Ballard but there are several thousand people here. How many skate boarders? Maybe a couple hundred. Let us all, old and young alike enjoy this new park.

I am opposed to any skateboarding in the park. Otherwise I think the design is fine. Thank you for all your hard work.

Skate Plaza is no go progression to new local—QFC show you their plans? Most Parks have trouble with tree's and low growth – safe? In this area we have homeless as the church feed's them and we have them now all the time. Please no water as they use it for other things (bath, laundry). My greatest thought is about parking. We have zero and merchants will not, and they will yell if people park in the area ment for the customers. Back to the back to the board fello users.

I think the new design is, overall, quite swell. I especially like the raised swale (downtown Ballard being so very flat). Also like having so much seating around the perimeter of the park. Think this will keep our many street folk from "taking over" the interior, but still give them places to sit. The water feature is lovely. But please consider putting it near the corner of 22nd and 58th, rather than on the northwest corner of the lot. 22nd is a very busy pedestrian street and I think a lot more people would get to enjoy it as they walk by (especially on our rainy winter days, when sitting in the park isn't much of an option). Bravo, too, for the kids area. Love the natural stone forms and think kids will too. I'm not at all sure about the skate plaza. Some of us who live here haven't found the skateboarders to be quite the swell citizens you congratulated last night. I was nearly hit by a

boarder on the sidewalk a week ago. I yelled at him to not ride on the sidewalks and received the traditional one-finger salute in response. An isolated incident, but one that made me question having any skateboarders in the park at all! Last, congratulations to you all for the way you handled a very difficult crowd last night. And thank you for a wonderful design. I've lived in Ballard for 20 years and (obviously) seen a lot of changes. This change is going to be the best of all. Can't wait for December of 2005!

1. Tree's – There are far too many trees on the east – southside. Don't get me wrong. I love huge deciduous trees, I just don't want them blocking the only sun the site will get.. Besides that there are so many it won't see inviting from 22nd or 57th streets. 2. Park Use – I want a park that is useful everyday, not a park designed for special events. Special events may be fun for sponsors, but they don't build community and the park is then poorly equipped to serve the real neighborhood/community. 3. I want an active park.—This will be a densely populated neighborhood that will give people something to do or watch, not just sit or walk through on the way to somewhere else. Make it more than a rest. Encourage people to move, interact. I must admit the skatebowl is great for this. It is compact, serves an underserved age group, is graceful to watch, is sculpture and encourages activity. Otherwise try more activity for folks over 5 years old – basketball , tennis backboard, climbing wall, gym equipment that is sculptural – something. As I said the bowl is good for this as was the wall in the old alternative 3. 4. Design – Don't let the QFC development dictate this park. I'm sorry this park is for Ballard, not the front yard of a private developer's project. I honestly don't care if they want to put townhouses on the Park! But the park design layout shouldn't be made to work around it. How about vice versa. 5. I highly encourage the rethinking of a bathroom. If you want people to use it long a bathroom would be great. Libraries aren't open nearly as many hours as Parks are. 6. I live the idea of a water feature. 7. I get the sense Ms. Swift is being constrained by other forces. Please let her loose again so the park can be more dynamic. 8. I'm back thinking about the trees. Let the trees free from pavement. All the trees along 22nd and 57th are surrounded by pavement. That's harder on the trees and when fall leaf drop happens, more people complain about leaves on sidewalks. Put the giant trees in healthy soil and give them room to breath. Think of a lawn substitute instead of grass. Maybe that grassy knoll can be a sea of a low growing substitute or tall grasses and perennials more in the new german style of natural gardening. Think of all ages not under 6 and over 66. Appeal to youth and not so youthful.